

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 H-03 PRS-01 PCH-02

INR-10 SS-15 RSC-01 /093 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

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APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. HARE (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

----- 092305

R 291955Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH

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AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
AUGUST 29, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON MR. SISCO'S INTERVIEW
ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE?

A. ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE AP STORY TODAY OR UP?

Q. I FORGET WHICH WIRE SERVICE IT WAS.

Q. HE QUOTES AN INTERVIEW THAT HE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GIVEN
TO A REPORTER FROM AN AMMAN NEWSPAPER.

A. HE DID TALK WITH TWO VISITING JOURNALISTS -- ONE FROM
SAUDI ARABIA AND THE OTHER FROM JORDAN -- ON AUGUST 17TH.
AND I UNDERSTAND THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THAT INTERVIEW,
MR. SISCO REITERATED OUR LONG-STANDING POSITION THAT WE
WOULD LIKE TO SEE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, DIRECTLY OR

INDIRECTLY, UNDER WAY IN THAT AREA. AND WE HAVE SAID ON
MANY OCCASIONS THAT WE REMAIN AVAILABLE TO PLAY A USEFUL
ROLE, IF THE PARTIES SO DESIRE; AND THAT'S CONSISTENT WITH
WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID HERE ON AUGUST 20TH.

BUT I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT MR. SISCO DID NOT DISCUSS
ANY NEW INITIATIVE OR ANY POSSIBLE ROLE OF THE U.S. AS A
MEDIATOR DURING THE COURSE OF THAT DISCUSSION.

Q. WELL, SPECIFICALLY, HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING -- AND I'M
QUOTING FROM FBIS --

A. YES.

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Q. -- THAT "THE UNITED STATES WILL SOON MAKE A DIPLOMATIC
MOVE IN AN ATTEMPT ..." -- ET CETERA. COULD YOU ADDRESS
YOURSELF TO THIS? DO YOU WANT TO DENY THIS?

A. I'D JUST SIMPLY REPEAT WHAT I SAID HERE -- THAT HE DID
NOT DISCUSS ANY NEW INITIATIVE.

Q. SO THIS IS A DENIAL THEN?

A. YES; I TAKE IT THAT WAY. END QUOTE. ROGERS

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BAGHDAD, SANAA.

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